

Robert Butler to Andrew Jackson, December 15, 1818, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

COLONEL ROBERT BUTLER TO JACKSON.

Washington, December 15, 1818.

D'r General, I yesterday read you letter to Doctor Bronaugh with considerable interest, and we have previously determined that a state of things might exist here which would render your presence necessary—we have much rumor that Georgia and New York have joined forces, and determined to injure the administration if possible on the Florida Question. There has been much warmth already manifested, but I think it is now subsiding, on the documents being given to the world. If this attempt is made you are to be the wounded instrument on the occasion. This party is very few, and from the preparations making I think they will get lashed in the house beyond endurance. It is desirable you should jump into the stage and come on for several reasons.¹ It is said Genl. Brown will be here, and much intrigue will be on foot in relation to the army. . . .

¹ When Congress met, the part of the President's annual message relating to the Seminole campaign was referred to a select committee on military affairs, which, on Jan. 12, 1819, by a majority vote of one member, reported resolutions condemnatory of Jackson. Early reference to the subject showed that it was charged with electric interest and Butler felt that Jackson ought to be on the spot. He had great confidence in Jackson's ability to do things. Eaton, in the Senate, where the Seminole matter was also being investigated, advised Jackson not to come, as his letter of Dec. 14 shows. Butler's advice was taken and Jackson arrived at the capital Jan. 23, 1819.